

This video features Congressman Dennis Kucinich delivering a speech titled "Prayer for America." Here's a breakdown of the key points:

#### **Introduction of Dennis Kucinich:**

- He is described as a dynamic, visionary leader of the Progressive Caucus in Congress. [\[00:01\]](#)
- He is committed to peace, human rights, and has proposed a federal Department of Peace. [\[00:10\]](#)
- He opposes the weaponization of outer space and supports the abolition of nuclear weapons. [\[00:24\]](#)
- He is a strong supporter of universal healthcare and campaign finance reform. [\[00:36\]](#)

#### **Kucinich's Speech - "Prayer for America":**

- **Core Message:** The speech is presented as a prayer for the country, emphasizing love of democracy, hope, and the enduring nature of freedom. [\[02:55\]](#)
- **Freedom and Fear:** He posits that freedom stirs the human heart while fear stills it, and that a free people cannot simultaneously walk in fear and faith. [\[03:24\]](#)
- **Unity and Interconnectedness:** Kucinich speaks of a deeper truth in the unity of the United States, extending to the union of all people everywhere. He highlights global interconnectedness not just economically, but through human consciousness and the shared desire to be free. [\[03:44\]](#)
- **Challenge to the Patriot Act:** A significant portion of the speech is dedicated to challenging the rationale of the Patriot Act. [\[04:28\]](#)
  - He questions the justification for setting aside constitutional guarantees. [\[04:36\]](#)
  - He specifically critiques the perceived cancellation of:
    - The First Amendment (free speech, peaceful assembly). [\[04:46\]](#)
    - The Fourth Amendment (probable cause, protection against unreasonable search and seizure). [\[04:53\]](#)
    - The Fifth Amendment (due process, protection against indefinite incarceration without trial). [\[05:01\]](#)
    - The Sixth Amendment (right to a prompt and public trial). [\[05:10\]](#)
    - The Eighth Amendment (protection against cruel and unusual punishment). [\[05:18\]](#)
  - He condemns widespread wiretaps, internet surveillance without judicial supervision, secret searches, and giving the Attorney General power to designate domestic terror groups. [\[05:18\]](#)
  - He criticizes giving the FBI access to all types of data and the CIA ability to target people for domestic intelligence. [\[05:36\]](#)
  - He argues against a government that takes away the right to privacy while assuming total secrecy for its own operations. [\[06:01\]](#)
  - He humorously notes the Attorney General covering a statue of Lady Justice, implying justice is not being exposed by the administration. [\[06:06\]](#)
- **Fear in the Capital:** Kucinich asserts that there is great fear in the capital, which impacts Congress's ability to function. [\[06:30\]](#)
  - He recounts instances that fueled this fear:
    - Evacuation of the capital on September 11th. [\[06:45\]](#)
    - Another evacuation due to a bomb scare during a CIA briefing. [\[06:53\]](#)
    - Abandoning Washington during the anthrax scare. [\[07:02\]](#)
    - The Attorney General declaring a nationwide terror alert before introducing the Patriot Bill. [\[07:11\]](#)

- The release of Bin Laden tapes coinciding with the withdrawal from the ABM treaty. [\[07:28\]](#)
  - He describes the current atmosphere with cordoned-off areas, armed National Guardsmen, and concrete barriers as "trappings of a state of siege" that trap them in fear. [\[07:37\]](#)
  - **Critique of Leadership:** He concludes this portion by stating that being trapped in a state of fear makes them ill-equipped to deal with the "patriot games, the mind games, the war games of an unelected president and his undisclosed vice president." [\[08:08\]](#)
- The video also includes Kucinich singing verses from "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," "The Star-Spangled Banner," and "America the Beautiful" at the beginning of his speech. [\[01:39\]](#)